

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An elongate weatherstrip for a motor vehicle, said weatherstrip comprising, in combination,

a metal carrier including a length ~~and a width~~ and having a first longitudinally extending region of a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region adjacent said first region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, said first region being longitudinally distinct from said second region,

said metal carrier including a base and two spaced legs extending from said base, said legs and said base each having a width extending transverse to said length with said width of said legs in said first longitudinally extending region being equal to said width of said legs in said second longitudinally extending region;

wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures on said base and said legs with said plurality of apertures each having a common first configuration, ~~[[and]]~~ being spaced a first distance along said length, being spaced from each other along said width of said base, and being spaced from each other along said width of said legs to define a first repeating pattern disposed only within said first region, said apertures on said base sized so as to extend only along a portion of said width of said base,

wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits on said base and said legs, said plurality of transverse slits each having a common second configuration distinct from said common first configuration of said apertures and being spaced from each other a second distance along said length different than said first distance to define a second repeating pattern disposed only within said second region that is different than said first repeating pattern, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one sealing feature.

2. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.
3. (Previously Presented) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said plurality of apertures are disposed generally centrally along said metal carrier.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.
6. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and a portion of said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.
7. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is a continuous, unitary piece.

8. (Currently Amended) A sealing strip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

a carrier including a base and two spaced legs extending from said base ~~to define a U-shape~~, with each of said legs and said base having a first longitudinally extending region including defining a first length and a first width and having a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region including defining a second length, said second region having and a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, the first region being longitudinally distinct from the second region,

said legs and said base of each of said regions each having a width extending transverse to said first and second lengths,

wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures on said base and said legs, with said plurality of apertures having a common size and shape and being spaced from each other a first distance along said first length and being spaced along said first width of said base and said legs within said first region to define a first repeating pattern disposed only within said first region,

wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits on said base and said legs with said plurality of transverse slits being spaced from each other a second distance along said second length different than said first distance to define a second repeating pattern disposed only within said second region that is different than said first repeating pattern with a portion of said transverse slits of said second region extending along the entire width of one of said legs and into said base, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one feature adapted to provide a seal against a vehicle component.

9. (Currently Amended) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said ~~U-shaped~~ carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

13. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a generally circular, hollow member.

14. (Currently Amended) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said carrier has a U-shape and a portion of said elastomeric material defines a shape corresponding to said U-shaped carrier.

15. (Currently Amended) A weatherstrip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

a hybrid carrier having a first longitudinally extending region including a first length ~~and a first width~~ and having a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region adjacent said first region and including a second length ~~and a second width equal to said first width of said first region~~, said second region having a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility,

said hybrid carrier having a base and two legs extending from said base to define a U-shape and each of said base and legs having a width transverse to said first and second lengths, said width of said legs along said first longitudinally extending region being equal to said width of said legs along said second longitudinally extending region;

~~wherein said first region includes~~ a plurality of apertures disposed on said base and said legs only in said first region and being spaced along said first length and along said ~~first~~ width of said base and said legs of said first region ~~with each of said apertures having a first width along said first length~~ to define a first repeating pattern disposed only within said first region,

~~wherein said second region includes~~ a plurality of transverse slits disposed only in said second region and being spaced along said second length on said base and said legs with each of said transverse slits having a second width along said second length different than said first width of said apertures to define a second repeating pattern disposed only within said second region that is different than said first repeating pattern, and

an elastomeric sealing material encapsulating said carrier, said material defining at least one longitudinally extending sealing feature.

16. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is fabricated of metal.

17. (Previously Presented) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said plurality of apertures are disposed generally centrally along said hybrid carrier.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

20. (Currently Amended) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein ~~said hybrid carrier is U-shaped in cross section and~~ said elastomeric material defines a ~~corresponding~~ U-shape corresponding to said U-shape of said hybrid carrier.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The elongated weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said apertures are sized and shaped differently along said length than said transverse slits.

24. (Currently Amended) The sealing strip of claim 8 wherein said apertures are sized and shaped differently along said length than said transverse slits.

25. (Previously Presented) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said apertures are spaced from each other a first distance along said length and said transverse slits are spaced from each other a second distance along said length different than said first distance.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)